WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for conducting an auction for a sponsor, comprising:

receiving information for setting a composite score for a bid submitted to the auction, the information for setting the composite score comprising:

a selection of at least one of a plurality of categories as evaluation criteria for the bid;

a setting of parameters for each of the selected categories; and

a weighting specified for each of the selected categories;

receiving a bid from one or more participants, the bid including information corresponding to the selected categories;

calculating a weighted value for each one of the selected categories based on the parameters and weighting for each of the selected categories and the information in the bid;

determining a score for each received bid based on the weighted values for each of the selected categories; and

identifying the bid having the highest score.

2.   A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a designation of the participants who may submit bids to the auction.

3.   A method according to claim 2, further comprising:

sending a notification to each of the participants based on the received designation.

4.   A method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the selected categories is set to a value provided by the sponsor.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the at least one of the selected categories set to a value provided by the sponsor relates to an evaluation of the participant by the sponsor.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of categories include a price, a distance, a quality, a volume and a lead time.

7. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
notifying the participant having the bid identified as having the highest score.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the information for setting the composite score further comprises a selection of at least three of the plurality of categories as evaluation criteria for the bid.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the information in the bid includes values corresponding to the selected categories.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the calculating of a weighted value for each one of the selected categories comprises:
scaling the values included in the information in the bid with the parameters set for each of the selected categories; and
adjusting the scaled values with the weighting specified for each of the selected categories.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein the determining of the score further includes summing the adjusted values.

12. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving values corresponding to the selected categories before the bid is submitted;

calculating a weighted value for each one of the selected categories based on the parameters and weighting for each of the selected categories and the received values;

determining a score based on the weighted values for each of the selected categories; and

displaying the score to the participant from which the values were received.

13. A computer readable medium operable on a computer system for conducting an auction for a sponsor, the computer readable medium configured to:

receive information for setting a composite score for a bid submitted to the auction, the information for setting the composite score comprising:

a selection of at least one of a plurality of categories as evaluation criteria for the bid;

a setting of parameters for each of the selected categories; and

a weighting specified for each of the selected categories;

receive a bid from one or more participants, the bid including information corresponding to the selected categories;

calculate a weighted value for each one of the selected categories based on the parameters and weighting for each of the selected categories and the information in the bid;

determine a score for each received bid based on the weighted values for each of the selected categories; and

identify the bid having the highest score.

14. A computer readable medium according to claim 13, further configured to:
receive a designation of the participants who may submit bids to the auction.

15. A computer readable medium according to claim 14, further configured to:

send a notification to each of the participants based on the received designation.

16.   A computer readable medium according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the selected categories is set to a value provided by the sponsor.

17.   A computer readable medium according to claim 16, wherein the at least one of the selected categories set to a value provided by the sponsor relates to an evaluation of the participant by the sponsor.

18.   A computer readable medium according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of categories include a price, a distance, a quality, a volume and a lead time.

19.   A computer readable medium according to claim 13, further configured to:
notify the participant having the bid identified as having the highest score.

20.   A computer readable medium according to claim 13, wherein the information for setting the composite score further comprises a selection of at least three of the plurality of categories as evaluation criteria for the bid.

21.   A computer readable medium according to claim 13, wherein the information in the bid includes values corresponding to the selected categories.

22.   A computer readable medium according to claim 21, further configured to:
scale the values included in the information in the bid with the parameters set for each of the selected categories; and
adjust the scaled values with the weighting specified for each of the selected categories.

23.   A computer readable medium according to claim 22, further configured to:

sum the adjusted values.

24.   A computer readable medium according to claim 13, further configured to:

receive values corresponding to the selected categories before the bid is submitted;

calculate a weighted value for each one of the selected categories based on the parameters and weighting for each of the selected categories and the received values;

determine a score based on the weighted values for each of the selected categories; and

display the score to the participant from which the values were received.

25.   A window in a graphical user interface for an auction, comprising:

an auction window operable to display information describing the content of the auction as provided by a sponsor of the auction

a composite score window operable to display at least two of a plurality of categories selected as evaluation criteria for a bid, a value entered for each of the selected categories, and a composite score calculated according to the values entered for each of the selected categories, parameters set for each of the selected categories, and a weighting specified for each of the selected categories.

26.   A window according to claim 25, wherein the composite score window is further operable to display an indication of the weighting specified for each of the selected categories.

27.   A window according to claim 25, wherein the composite score window is further operable to display a score corresponding to the highest calculated composite score and a score corresponding to values most recently submitted by a participant of the auction.

28.   A window according to claim 25, wherein the composite score is displayed before the values are submitted to the auction.